

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Film Theory
Status: Definitive
Code: **4503FDM** (118328)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

Owning School/Faculty: Liverpool Screen School
Teaching School/Faculty: Accrington & Rossendale College

| Team | Leader |
|-------------|--------|
| Ross Dawson | Y |

Academic Level: FHEQ4
Credit Value: 24.00
Total Delivered Hours: 64.00

Total Learning Hours: 240
Private Study: 176

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

| Component | Contact Hours |
|-----------|---------------|
| Lecture | 48.000 |
| Online | 4.000 |
| Seminar | 8.000 |
| Tutorial | 4.000 |

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

| Category | Short Description | Description | Weighting (%) | Exam Duration |
|--------------|-------------------|---|---------------|---------------|
| Presentation | AS1 | A minimum of four seminars. Researching and discussing the issues raised in the weekly lectures. A minimum word count of 150 words, plus illustrations per seminar. | 10.0 | |
| Exam | AS3 | An extract analysis exam that requires cinematic codes, film language and narrative theories to be applied to the clip selected. Approx. 08 minute clip, with 3x viewings | 50.0 | |

| Category | Short Description | Description | Weighting (%) | Exam Duration |
|----------|-------------------|--|---------------|---------------|
| Essay | AS2 | A written piece that includes the theory material from lectures and elements of the film practice sessions. 1000 words. | 40.0 | |

Aims

To introduce the theories of film language, narrative structures and theorists.

To engage with forms of analysis, the directors intended meanings and audience response.

To examine the institutional and historical context surrounding the development of film.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate an understanding of the concepts of film language and narrative functions.
- 2 Understand and evaluate the relationship between genre, authorship and the star system.
- 3 Engage with the history, development and significance of various modes of film production and consumption.
- 4 Examine a film extract with specific reference to film language and narrative theories.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

| | | | |
|--------------|---|---|---|
| Presentation | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Exam | 1 | 4 | |
| Essay | 2 | 3 | |

Outline Syllabus

Film Theory introduces early cinema and the institutional context of the history and development in terms of Hollywood and British modes of production. The rise and fall of the studio system and the concepts of genre, authorship and stardom.

It also introduces film language and the director's intended meanings. Literary narrative theorists, Propp and Todorov discussed and the adaptation to the study of film.

Learning Activities

Lectures, seminars, seminar discussion, tutorial, private study and practical activities

References

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Course Material | Book |
| Author | Nelmes, J. |
| Publishing Year | 2007 |
| Title | Introduction to Film Studies |
| Subtitle | |
| Edition | Fourth Edition |
| Publisher | Routledge |
| ISBN | 9780415409285 |

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|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Course Material | Book |
| Author | Dick, A. |
| Publishing Year | 2008 |
| Title | Beginning Film Studies |
| Subtitle | |
| Edition | First Edition |
| Publisher | Manchester University Press |
| ISBN | 9780719072550 |

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| Course Material | Website |
| Author | |
| Publishing Year | |
| Title | www.bfi.org.uk/sightandsound/ |
| Subtitle | |
| Edition | |
| Publisher | |
| ISBN | |

Notes

This module is designed to provide students with an understanding of film theories, which will be applied to the production module. Students are encouraged to attend screenings off-site to enhance their learning. Informal and formal seminars provide formative assessment to support student learning and also overall progress.